

RECOMMENDED READING  
(Originally published September 1962)

Since the defeat of Medicare, and with politicians preoccupied with the forthcoming fall elections, there has come a lull in the battle between the administration and the AMA. It would be well for us to remember that no victory has been won, and that the lull is just that—a temporary interval of quiet between battles in what promises to be a long campaign. It is a time that can be utilized by all of us to become more familiar with the issues involved, and in this regard we would like to recommend as required reading the recently published book, *Financing Medical Care*.

This work, edited, introduced and translated by Helmut Schoeck, professor of sociology at Emory University, is contributed to by fifteen authorities from varied fields, who discuss and comment on the medical care systems in their own countries. The medical programs in seven countries—Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia—are thoroughly outlined and explained and are appraised and criticized in intelligent fashion by men familiar with the inner workings of their own nations' systems.

The general tenor of the entire book is one of dissatisfaction with socialistic plans of state medicine, and the average practicing physician will be pleased to find that there are influential thinkers in other countries who share his dislike for medicine under government control.

A just criticism of the book, which will undoubtedly be emphasized by the socializers and the welfare-minded, is that the study was apparently initiated and sponsored at the suggestion of the AMA's Economic Research Advisory Committee. But even though the contributors may have been chosen because of their known antipathies toward government-sponsored medicine, the detailed information presented makes interesting reading, and the systems are examined with enough thoroughness that the reader will have a clear understanding of how the various plans have been set up, how they work and how they do not work.

The book will serve as an excellent source of background material, and again, we urge that it be read by all.